

REMARKS

The present application includes claims pending claims 1-7, and 9-21. Claims 1, 4, 7, 9-11, 14, 16, 19, and 21 have been rejected, while claims 2, 3, 5, 6, 12, 13, 15, 17, 18, and 20 have been objected to. The Applicants respectfully submit that all of the pending claims are allowable, as discussed below.

Claims 1, 4, 7, 9-11, 14-16, 19, and 21 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by United States Patent No. 5,542,138 (“Williams”). The Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection at least for the reasons set forth hereafter.

“A claim is anticipated only if each and every element as set forth in the claim is found, either expressly or inherently described, in a single prior art reference.” Manual of Patent Examining Procedure (MPEP) § 2131, citing *Verdegel Bros. V. Union Oil Co. of California*, 814 F.2d 628, 631, 2 USPQ2d 1051, 1053 (Fed. Cir. 1987). The Applicants respectfully submit, however, that Williams does not teach or suggest “each and every element as set forth” in the claims of the present application.

Williams discloses a “bedside control unit for a hospital bed.” See Williams at Abstract.

The bedside control system of the present invention comprises a control panel 40 supported above a hospital bed by an articulating arm structure 20 that allows freedom of movement in all planes.

Id. at column 2, lines 50-53. Initially, the Applicants note that Williams discloses a “hospital bed,” but not a “patient support surface for supporting a patient during a medical procedure,” as recited, for example, in claim 1. The hospital bed disclosed in Williams is an ordinary hospital bed in which a patient rests, but is not operated on.

Thus, at least for this reason, Williams does not anticipate the claims of the present application.

Further, Williams does not teach, nor suggest, a “urology table,” as recited in claims 11 and 16. Urology tables are specialized tables that are not the same as a conventional hospital bed. For example, as stated in the present application (and as shown in its Figures), “Conventional urology patient support systems support the patient in two positions, lying on their back and sitting up.” *See* present application at Para. [0003]. Such a table is different from a conventional hospital bed on which a patient rests. Thus, at least for this reason, claims 11 and 16 should be in condition for allowance.

Additionally, Williams does not teach, nor suggest, “a monitor displaying medical information relating to a medical procedure,” as recited in claims 1, 11, and 16. As mentioned above, Williams discloses a control module 40.

Referring now to FIG. 2, the control module 40 is shown. The control module 40 includes a housing 42 having integral handles 44 on the sides of the housing 42. The handles 44 allow easy manipulation of the control module 40 by physically-challenged patients. At the top of the housing 42, a hand-set receiving area 46 is formed for docking a conventional telephone handset 48. A (sic) integral speaker 50 is mounted within the handset receiving area 46. A digital display is also included for time and date display.

Williams at column 3, lines 3-11. The above passage of Williams does not disclose a monitor that displays medical information relating to a medical procedure. Instead, the display discussed above relates to time and date display.

Williams, however, continues its discussion of the control module 40.

Referring now to FIG. 3, the back of the control module 40 is shown. A display panel 76 is connected to the housing 42 by a hinge in a manner similar to the display of a lap-top computer. The display panel 76 is movable between a folded position against the back side of the housing 42 unit and an upright position as seen in FIG. 3. The display panel 76 includes a multi-line display 70. The multi-line 70 may be used to display video as well as to provide an interface with the control module 40. An input device, such as a keyboard 72 and trackball 74, is disposed on the housing 42 and is covered by the display panel 76 when the display panel 76 is in a folded position. The keyboard 72 and trackball 74 enable the user to input commands and data to the control module 40. Of course, other types of input devices could also be used, such as a touch screen or mouse.

Id. at column 3, lines 34-48. Again, Williams does not teach, nor suggest, a monitor displaying medical information relating to a medical procedure. Instead, the passage above shows that the display panel may be used to display a video, but not medical information related to a medical procedure. As discussed above, the hospital bed of Williams is not adapted for use in a medical procedure, such as a urology table. As such, the video display of Williams is not related to a monitor for a medical procedure.

Williams discloses display patient charting information. Such information, however, is not related to a medical procedure that is presently being performed on the patient.

A memory device 90, such as an EEPROM, provides for data storage in a preferred embodiment of the invention. The memory device 90 can be used, for example, for bedside patient charting. That is, patient data can be stored in the control module 40 for patient charting. The integral keyboard 72 is used to input data into the memory device 90 and the display 70 can be used to view data stored in the memory device 90.

Id. at column 4, lines 17-25. Patient charting, however, is not medical information relating a medical procedure that is presently being performed on the patient. Patient charting, which as mentioned above is stored in a memory device, relates to a patient's condition over time, but does not relate to a present medical procedure. Overall, Williams does not teach, nor suggest, a "monitor displaying medical information relating to a medical procedure," as recited in the claims of the present application. Thus, at least for this reason, Williams does not anticipate the claims of the present application.

In general, Williams discloses a conventional hospital bed having a control panel for adjusting the bed. The control panel includes a display for showing such things as time and date, and general patient charting information. However, Williams does not teach, nor suggest, "a patient support surface for supporting a patient during a medical procedure," nor a "monitor displaying medical information relating to a medical procedure." Thus, at least for these reasons, Williams does not anticipate the claims of the present application, which should now be in condition for allowance.

At least for the reasons set forth above and previously during prosecution of the present application, the Applicants respectfully submit that the pending claims define allowable subject matter. The Applicants look forward to working with the Examiner to resolve any remaining issues in the application. If the Examiner has any questions or the Applicants can be of any assistance, the Examiner is invited and encouraged to contact the Applicants at the number below. The Commissioner is authorized to charge any necessary fees or credit any overpayment to the Deposit Account No. 07-0845.

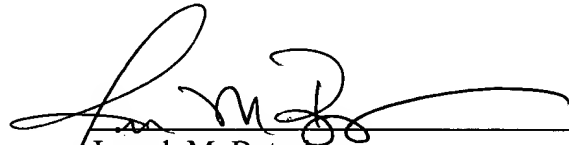
Respectfully submitted,

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